

21st DECEMBER, 1942.

1942/12A.

2 - JAN 1943

NEW SOUTH WALES.

BUSINESS STATISTICS - MONTHLY DIGEST.

DECEMBER, 1942.

GENERAL.

War expenditure in November, 1942 was £48m. and for the five months July - November, £207m. The Austerity Loan closed on Dec. 15th oversubscribed. The index of share prices rose in November to the same level as November, 1941. Bond yields declined fractionally. Bank resources are being diverted per medium of the Commonwealth Bank, to short-term financing of war expenditure.

Bank clearings are at a high level but retail business is contracting. Savings bank deposits are expanding rapidly. Private employment and total employment continue to fall as further man-power is absorbed by the Forces.

Transport and communication services have difficulty in coping with the demands on their facilities.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND RECONSTRUCTION.

A convention of representatives from the Parliaments of the six States and the Commonwealth met on 24th November, 1942 to discuss proposals for extending the Constitutional powers of the Commonwealth with a view to post-war reconstruction.

Alteration of the Commonwealth Constitution would have involved a referendum. This was not desired in war-time and the convention adopted an alternative plan by which the States are to introduce legislation into their Parliaments before 31st January, 1943 transferring certain powers to the Commonwealth for a period of five years after the cessation of hostilities. When passed, the legislation is not to be amended or repealed without the approval of the electors. In N.S.W. the Commonwealth Powers Bill has already passed both houses of Parliament.

In the exercise of its new powers the Commonwealth is bound to seek the assistance of the States. The matters referred to the Commonwealth Parliament are as follows:-

- (a) Reinstatement and advancement of ex-members of the Forces and their dependants;
- (b) Employment and unemployment;
- (c) Organised marketing of commodities;
- (d) & (e) Uniform company legislation, trusts, combines and monopolies;
- (f) Profiteering and prices (excl. local government rates and other Government charges);
- (g) Production (other than primary) and distribution of goods and (with consent of the State) primary production - without discrimination between States;
- (h) Control of overseas exchange and investment and the raising of loans according to the plans of the Australian Loan Council;
- (i) & (j) Air transport and uniformity of railway gauges;
- (k) National works, in agreement and co-operation with the States concerned;
- (l) National health in co-operation with the States;
- (m) Family allowances, and
- (n) Aborigines.

PUBLIC FINANCE.

The monthly rate of Commonwealth war expenditure is increasing. In November, 1942 war expenditure was £48m. making the total for the first five months of the financial year £207m. If the current rate of war expenditure is maintained the total for 1942/43 will be about £100 m. in excess of the Budget estimate of £440m. (Aust. and overseas). These figures include an allowance for "reciprocal lend-lease aid".

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

	<u>1940/41</u>	<u>1941/42</u>	Budget Estimates <u>1942/43</u>	Five Months July - Nov. '42.
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
Expenditure from Revenue:				
Ordinary Services	84.75	101.53	109	7.1
War (1939) Purposes	68.66	108.52	140	38.5
T O T A L	153.41	210.05	249	85.6
War Expenditure from Loans:	101.58	210.94	300	168.7
Total War (1939-) Expenditure:	170.24	319.45	440	207.2

The Second Liberty Loan (£35m.) raised in June was oversubscribed by £2.25m. The Nov.-Dec. Austerity Loan (£100m.) closed on Dec. 15th and was oversubscribed by £4m. About 420,000 subscriptions were received or 180,000 more than the number received for the last loan. About £22.7m. was offered for conversion into the Austerity Loan and 96% was converted.

The Treasury Bill issue (Commonwealth) was £174m. at the end of November, 1942 indicating that approximately £94m. had been obtained from this source towards war expenditure of £207m. in the period July - November, 1942.

£16m. was added to the Treasury Bill issue (C/wealth) during November, 1942. In the period 2/11/42 - 7/12/42, the Commonwealth Bank's holdings of Government securities (incl. T. Bills) increased by approximately £14m. Banking Statistics are shown in the next section.

Accounts of the State Government for the five months July - Nov., 1942 reveal a deficit of £1.82m. or double that for the corresponding period last year. However, comparison of progress accounts in 1942/43 strictly cannot be made with earlier years. There have been changes made in revenue collecting machinery. The State is no longer paying Family Endowment and has been relieved of most of its liability in respect of widows pensions. These and other alterations will be reflected in the accounts for the full year.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER.

	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942.</u>
Revenue (£m.)	19.80	20.12	23.62	24.76	26.78
Expenditure (£m.)	23.83	25.82	26.30	25.67	28.60
Deficit. (£m.)	4.03	5.70	2.68	0.91	1.82

The Rural Bank of N.S.W. made a net profit in 1941/42 of £78,800, almost the same as in the previous year. The Bank's departmental reserves become £1,859,000, and there is also a special reserve of £1,577,000. Investments in Government Securities amount to £1,793,000.

BANKING.

Expansion of trading bank deposits continues in accordance with the large amount of cash available to the business community. ~~Over~~ advances continue to decrease. The result is reflected in increased holdings of cash items (including coin, notes and deposits with the Commonwealth Bank) and also in increased Special War-time Deposits with the Commonwealth Bank.

The trading banks' holdings of Treasury Bills and, to a lesser extent, other Government securities are trending upward.

The fields into which trading bank funds are going are directly related to Government finance and in all of them rates of return are low. Lucrative advance business is declining.

The trading banks are in a very liquid position as the following ratios indicate:-

	Oct. 1941	Sept. 1942.	Oct. 1942.
Ratio of:	%	%	%
Cash to deposits -	11.9	12.6	13.6
" & Treasury Bills to deposits -	23.8	24.3	26.0
Advances to deposits -	76.3	64.8	62.4

NINE TRADING BANKS - AUSTRALIA.

Liabilities & Assets within Australia.
(£A Million).

W. of Weekly figures	D e p o s i t s.		Total.	Coin, Notes, Bullion etc.ø	Treasury Bills	Govt. & Municipal Securities.	Special War-Time Deposits with C'wealth Bank.	Advances, Discounts, etc.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed)	Not b'ing Interest (Current)						
1939	199.9	121.6	321.5	33.8	23.2	22.1	-	290.7
1940	207.9	142.1	350.0	41.5	39.7	42.2	-	283.6
1941	205.0	162.6	367.6	41.3	41.0	60.8	0.7	280.4
1941-Mch.	210.4	163.6	374.0	45.8	45.8	59.0	-	277.7
Sept.	202.4	164.1	366.5	41.5	38.0	62.5	-	279.2
Oct.	202.3	166.9	369.2	42.1	42.5	62.5	-	281.6
1942-Mch.	197.5	188.9	386.4	38.5	47.7	56.4	34.9	263.3
July	190.3	188.6	378.9	36.4	38.4	56.3	36.3	269.9
Aug.	190.7	200.2	390.9	50.1	37.1	56.3	37.9	264.0
Sept.	190.5	208.6	399.1	51.5	45.6	57.3	40.6	258.5
Oct.	191.3	217.5	408.8	55.8	50.6	59.9	44.7	255.2

ø Incl. cash with C'wealth Bank.

The note issue continues to expand. At the present time, the usual Xmas season increase is taking place. The bulk of the war-time increase in the note issue is held by persons and businesses (other than banks.)

Deposits in the Commonwealth Bank are rising rapidly. This is due, in part, to the increase in trading banks' deposits, both ordinary and Special War-Time. Another important source of deposits is proceeds of the sale of exported primary products. The new reserves thus becoming available to the Commonwealth Bank are being invested in Government Securities of which the Bank's holdings increased by £47.2 from June to October, 1942. Treasury Bills are the main class of security taken up.

The banks, Commonwealth and private, did not subscribe to the Austerity Loan.

NOTE ISSUE & GENERAL BANKING DEPTS.

(£A Million).

Av. of Weekly Figures	Notes in Circulation held by:			Deposits, incl. other Banks' balances with C'wealth Bk.	Govt. & Other Securities (incl. Treasury Bills)	Sterling Reserve & London "Short Call"	Disc & Adv
	Public	Banks	Total				
1939	34.8	14.6	49.4	87.4	99.2	33.3	17.
1940	43.8	14.2	58.0	113.5	91.1	60.2	31.
1941	54.6	14.2	68.8	117.1	105.6	65.7	22.
1941-June	53.3	13.6	66.9	117.3	94.4	73.6	21.
Sept.	57.2	14.1	71.3	111.6	116.9	52.9	20.
Oct.	59.0	13.9	72.9	113.0	124.6	49.7	20.
				<u>T.B.S.W. Other</u>			
1942-June	85.8	15.1	100.9	36.4	126.2	185.2	28.
Sept.	95.4	15.5	110.9	40.6	142.6	219.3	22.
Oct.	97.9	15.4	113.3	44.7	157.0	232.4	22.

(T.B.S.W. = Trading Banks' special wartime deposits with the Commonwealth Bank).

BOND YIELDS.

Yields on Commonwealth bonds fell slightly during November, 1942. The weighted average yield on bonds maturing in 5 - 10 years and subject to full Commonwealth Taxation is $\text{£}3\frac{1}{4}/2\%$. The rate of interest on the Austerity Loan which closed on December 15th is $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ for a 16 year term.

Melbourne Board of Works is offering to convert a $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ maturing loan into 15 year securities at $\text{£}3\frac{1}{8}/9\%$.

Weighted average rates of interest on private first mortgages registered are 0.2 to 0.3% below 1939.

FIRST MORTGAGES REGISTERED. ϕ Weighted Average rate.

	<u>Urban Security</u>	<u>Rural Security.</u>
	%	%
1939	5.6	5.2
Jan. 1942	5.5	5.0
Oct. 1942	5.4	4.9

ϕ Incl. renewals.

COMMONWEALTH BOND YIELDS.

(Compiled by Commonwealth Bank).

	Average		Mar.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	No
	1939	1941	1942	1942	1942	1942	1942	1942
Taxed at 1930 Rates and maturing in:-								
5-10 years	3.87	2.95	3.07	2.88	2.80	2.67	2.70	2.6
10 years and over	3.92	3.10	3.17	3.13	3.03	2.86	2.87	2.8
Taxed at full C/wealth rates and maturing in								
5-10 years	x	3.17	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.22	3.2

Interest yield £ p.a. per £100 (a)

x Not available.

- (a) Weighted average rate, calc. on earliest date of maturity when above par and on latest date when below par.

SAVINGS.

Savings bank deposits in N.S.W. increased by £2,198,000 during October, 1942. The rapid increase in deposits in recent months is illustrated by the fact that during the first five months of 1942 the increase in deposits was £1,267,000 and during the second five months £10,658,000. Total increase since the war began is £16,600,000.

Net sales of War Savings Certificates in N.S.W. were £304,000 during October. Total net sales since they were introduced amount to £10,667,000.

N.S.W. SAVINGS.

£ - THOUSANDS.

	<u>Year ended Oct.31.</u>						
	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>Aug.1941</u>	<u>Sept.1941</u>	<u>Aug.1942</u>	<u>Sept.1942</u>	<u>Oct.1942.</u>
<u>SAVINGS BANKS</u> -							
Increase in Deposits:	6,745	12,270	1,195	1,017	2,396	1,658	2,198
<u>WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES-</u>							
Net Sales ϕ :	<u>2,626</u>	<u>3,371</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>304</u>
<u>T O T A L</u>	<u>9,371</u>	<u>15,641</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>1,190</u>	<u>2,593</u>	<u>2,003</u>	<u>2,502</u>

ϕ Purchases less redemptions.

COMMERCE.

All categories of shares except pastoral and finance showed gains in price in November, 1942. The total index of share prices (Government Statistician) for 75 companies was 168, the same as a year earlier - before Japan entered the war. The index for 34 active shares was 184 in November i.e. 2 points higher than a year ago. Many shares for which revised maximum prices have been fixed under the control scheme (see B.S. 1942/11A) have been sought at limit prices.

The Sydney Stock Exchange Research Bureau's index of industrial share prices increased from 117.14 on Nov. 2nd to 121.90 on Nov. 30th and 124.84 on Dec. 17th.

Sydney bank clearings in October, 1942 were £115m. compared with £101.8m. a year earlier. The index of clearings for the period Aug.-Oct., 1942 was 138 or 15 points above 1941.

Sales by wholesalers in N.S.W. were in October, 1942, still at a high level. Some of these sales represent supply of Government orders.

Retail business in the days approaching Xmas appears to have been brisk. Latest statistics available are for October. Retail sales in a group of large Sydney stores were in September 1942, 7% below and in October, 1942, 17.3% below the corresponding months of the previous year. Stocks in retail stores are tending to decline in value. Employment in the trade continues to decline.

Year	Bank Clearings (Sydney)		Stock Exchange (Sydney)	Wholesale Trade (N.S.W.)		Retail Trade Sydney		Real Estate (N.S.W.)	
	★		φ						
	Amount	Index No.	Prices of Ord. Shares	S a l e s		S a l e s		Sales	Mort.
	Jan-Oct	Aug-Oct	November.	Sept.Qr.	Oct	Index No. 1931= 100		Jan-Oct.	
	£mill.	1926-30 =100	Index No. - Par Value = 100	£m.	£m.	Sept.Qr.	Aug- Oct.	£m.	£m.
1938	771.6	101	183	49.6	15.7	153	152	32.0	22.
1939	753.5	100	188	55.1	19.2	157	164	27.7	19.
1940	880.2	115	186	53.7	18.5	169	173	26.2	14.
1941	934.8	123	182	59.1	18.2	195	205	27.7	13.
1942	1,021.9	138	184	59.6	22.1	184	191	18.4	6.

★ Excluding Treasury Bill transactions.

φ 34 Active Shares (excl. banks).

+ Including new mortgages and renewals as registered.

A special additional ration of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea per head for Xmas has been allowed in the current ration period. For jam making an additional 6 lb. of sugar per head is available and a further special ration of 6 lb. per head may be obtained for jam making upon approval of the Rationing Commission.

In the rationing of clothing waistcoats are no longer banned but suits must still conform to the Victory style. Special coupon issues have been made to big children in the 13-15 years age-group. An amended clothes ration scale incorporates ties, handkerchiefs, braces and suspenders which formerly were coupon free.

The Government has taken control of all chicory production.

An acute shortage of watches and spare parts has developed. Alarm clocks have not been available for some time.

Real estate business is slack but some revival may take place following an announcement by the Treasurer. Purchase of investment property must be on a 100% cash basis but homes for immediate habitation by the purchaser may be purchased with the aid of mortgage loans providing interest does not exceed 5%. An amendment of the National Security (Economic Organisation) Regulations is designed to peg rents and values of rural land at the levels prevailing on Feb. 10, 1942.

WHOLESALE PRICES.

After a period of quick rise early in 1942, wholesale prices in Australia varied little in September Quarter. Owing to increased landed costs, the prices, wholesale and retail, of petrol were increased $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per gall. on Dec. 5th. The new retail price in the metropolitan area is 2/10 per gall., an increase of 1/1 since the war began.

The wholesale price of eggs was increased 2d. a dozen on Dec. 5th and by 1d. on Dec. 19th to 1/9 a doz. for first grade.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX-NUMBERS - AUSTRALIA.

BASIC MATERIALS & FOODSTUFFS. (BASE - 1928/29 = 100)

Period	Metals & Coal	Oils, Fats, & Waxes.	Tex- tiles.	Chemi- cals.	Rubber & Hides.	Building Materials	Food- stuffs & Tobacco	Goods Princ- ipally Import- ed.	Goods Princ- ipally Home Prod- uced.	All Groups.
1938/39	81	94	63	83	81	102	96	109	86	92
1939/40	83	108	81	88	101	114	95	121	87	95
1940/41★	85	129	86	102	109	136	100	145	90	103
1941/42★	92	142	91	113	118	143	109	167	95	113
1942-Jan.★	92	143	91	116	124	140	106	166	93	111
Mar.★	93	148	93	116	119	140	109	167	96	113
June★	96	148	93	116	119	160	124	186	103	123
Aug.	97	154	100	116	119	160	123	181	105	124
Sept.	98	154	100	116	119	160	124	188	104	124

★ Revised. (Compiled by Commonwealth Statistician).

MANUFACTURING.

There was a seasonal increase in sales by 42 large N.S.W. factories in September, 1942.

In all factories and workshops in N.S.W. it is estimated there were 299,000 employees (incl. working proprietors) in September, 1942. The increase over August was 1,400 including 1,000 females. The index of factory employment (Av. 1938/39=100) moved to 131 in September, 1942.

It is estimated that since September, 1941, private factories and works (incl. munitions annexes) have taken on an additional 3,500 females but have lost about 7,000 males. On the other hand employment in Government factories, has increased by approx. 7,000 males and over 4,000 females.

Many brickworks are being closed. Civilian demand is very small and large stocks of bricks are on hand.

Boot repairing is regarded as an essential industry. Of available leather supplies in Australia 30% is allotted to civilian footwear needs compared with 15% previously. Military requirements are absorbing 65% and industrial goods (belts, etc.) 5%.

N.S.W. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

	42 Large Factories.			ALL FACTORIES & WORKS IN N.S.W.			
	Sales	Employees	Weekly Wages & Salaries	Employees ⁺		Index of Employment ⁺	
				M.	F.	1928/29 = 100.	1938/39 = 100.
	£m.	Hundreds	£000	'000	'000		
1938/39-Monthly Av.	3.12	234	96	167	62	127	100
1939/40 " "	3.44	235	100	172	65	131	104
1940/41 " "	3.90	260	117	194	72	147	116
1941/42 " "	4.84	281	146	214	79	162	128
1941 - Aug.	4.26	283	138	211	76	159	126
Sept.	4.75	269	137	215	77	162	128
1942 - July	5.41	277	153	214.2	82.7	164	130
Aug.	5.00	277	153	214.3	83.3	164	130
Sept.	5.35	277	156	214.7	84.3	165	131

+ Including working proprietors and subject to revision in respect of 1941/42 and later.

The Minister for the Navy and Munitions forecast on 6th December that Australian war production would reach full planned capacity in May next.

Several recent announcements have revealed the great developments in arms production in Australia. In production are 14 types of guns and firearms, 3 modern types of front-line aircraft, 40 types of Army vehicles incl. cruiser tanks, ammunition of 22 different calibres and 10 types of aircraft bombs and grenades. Government factories in operation number 22, the largest employing 12,000 persons. Nine are situated in N.S.W. Nineteen more Government factories have been authorised and some are under construction. Total capital expenditure will be £45m. for all 41 factories.

For some time Bofors 40 m.m. A.A. guns, 6-Pdr. Anti-tank guns and 3 inch 20 cwt. A.A. guns have been in production also 25-Pdr. field guns, 3.7 in A.A. and 2-Pdr. Anti-tank guns as formerly announced. Quantity production of the Austen (modified British Sten) guns has begun in a N.S.W. factory.

Current orders for Australian made munitions total £250 m.

EMPLOYMENT.

The estimated total number of non-rural wage and salary earners (excl. household domestics) employed in New South Wales at the end of September, 1942 was 762,200 (males 535,200 and females 227,000). The downward trend in private employment continued. Government employment remained steady, a loss of males being counter-balanced by an increase in females for the most part in munitions factories.

There are indications that Government employment of males in N.S.W. in October, 1942 was approximately the same as in September and of females about 1,000 higher. More females were employed by railways, tramways and omnibuses (conductors), the Public Services and munitions factories.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

ESTIMATED TOTAL NON-RURAL WAGE & SALARY EARNERS^ø EMPLOYED (EXCL. HOUSEHOLD DOMESTIC).

End of Month.	MALES.			FEMALES.			TOTAL.		
	Government (C/wlth., State & Local.)	Private Employers.	Total	Government (C/wlth., State & Local.)	Private Employers.	Total.	Government (C/wlth., State & Local.)	Private Employers.	Total.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
1939-July	136.5	399.1	535.6	19.4	141.3	160.7	155.9	540.4	696.3
1941-July Sept. Nov.	141.5	419.5	561.0	21.7	186.8	208.5	163.2	606.3	769.5
	143.4	426.7	570.1	22.4	189.7	212.1	165.7	616.5	782.2
	144.3	425.1	569.4	23.0	194.8	217.8	167.3	619.9	787.2
1942-Mar. July Aug. Sept.	148.9	405.3	554.2	25.0	197.1	222.1	173.9	602.4	776.3
	154.8	384.3	539.1	28.1	197.0	225.1	182.9	581.3	764.2
	154.6	383.0	537.6	28.8	197.4	226.2	183.4	580.4	763.8
	153.3	381.9	535.2	30.1	196.9	227.0	183.4	578.8	762.2

^ø Including Civil Constructional Corps in N.S.W. but excluding persons absent on military service.

The trend of employment in certain broad industrial classifications is shown in the table below. The numbers shown do not represent the totals employed in the industries.

Estimated factory employment is shown elsewhere.

Employment in wholesale trade and wool, produce etc. broking (incl. in "other commerce") showed seasonal expansion in September, 1942. Banks, insurance and other commerce (all incl. under "other commerce") declined. The fairly rapid downward trend in building, retail trade and personal service continued. Railways, tramways and omnibus services absorbed more employees.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

EMPLOYMENT OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS AS RECORDED BY EMPLOYERS ON PAY-ROLL TAX RETURNS.^ø

(Thousands).

Last Day in Month.	Employees recorded by Employers whose principal activity is:											
	Building & Const- ruction. (a)		Land Trans- port (R/ways. & Road).		Retail Trade.		Wholesale Trade		Other Commerce and Finance. (b)		Personal Service, etc. (excl. household domestics). (c)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 -												
July	20.5	0.5	60.7	2.7	31.9	31.8	29.1	10.0	20.9	9.8	16.3	20.3
Sept.	20.4	0.5	61.5	2.8	31.9	31.6	29.2	10.6	21.6	10.0	16.8	21.1
Nov.	19.3	0.5	62.0	3.0	32.1	33.8	29.3	11.1	21.6	10.5	16.7	21.5
2 -												
Mar.	19.9	0.5	62.3	3.3	28.5	33.1	27.6	11.0	18.4	11.3	15.1	21.5
June	18.2	0.5	62.4	3.4	25.6	32.6	25.4	11.2	17.4	11.6	13.5	21.4
July	17.2	0.5	62.4	3.5	24.9	32.1	24.9	11.1	16.7	11.7	13.4	21.5
Aug.	16.5	0.5	62.7	3.6	24.4	31.9	25.0	11.4	16.9	11.7	13.0	21.6
Sept.	15.5	0.5	62.8	3.6	24.0	31.6	25.6	11.6	17.1	11.7	12.7	21.5

- ø Pay Roll Tax returns are submitted by all employers (except C/wealth Government, charities, etc.) whose pay roll exceeds £20 p. wk.
- (a) Excluding large numbers employed on construction work by Government authorities.
- (b) Incl. wool and produce brokers, banks, insurance and commerce, n.e.i. Revised since last Digest.
- (c) Incl. hotels, restaurants, entertainment, professional and other personal service (except private domestic).

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The number of males on the unemployed register in N.S.W. at the end of November was 1,230 or approximately 200 less than the previous month. The number of registered unemployed males represents a very small percentage of the number of males in the working population.

N.S.W. - UNEMPLOYED MALES REGISTERED.

End of Month.

<u>April, 1942</u>	<u>July, 1942</u>	<u>September, 1942</u>	<u>October, 1942</u>	<u>November, 1942.</u>
2,688	1,786	1,435	1,424	1,230

EMPLOYMENT CONTROL.

Absenteeism from employment is causing much concern. Maximum hours of work have been limited to 56 weekly with a view to reducing absenteeism.

Joint management committees on which managements and employees will be equally represented are to be set up in Commonwealth aircraft and munitions factories. The committees will be consultative and advisory and will not be concerned with wages.

The Stevedoring Industry Commission has been investigating Sydney waterfront labour problems. Plenty of men are available but attendance for work is irregular.

Women in the metropolitan area between 18 and 35 years, single, or widowed without children, and not gainfully employed are being called up for full time duty. Choice lies between auxiliary services and essential industries. Hospitals are experiencing an acute shortage of domestic labour. A regulation to restrict the employment of private domestic servants (incl. gardeners and chauffeurs) has been introduced.

Over 10,000 Australian Women's Army Service members have been posted to duty. The Aust. Army Medical Women's Service (formerly enlisted full-time V.A.'s) require 4,000 more recruits.

All women for employment in retail stores, except those engaged for casual labour limited to three days, must be employed in future through National Service Offices. Previously women over 45, or required for not more than 14 days, could be engaged without reference to a N.S. Office.

BUILDING.

The estimated value of proposed buildings for which permits were granted to private persons during October, 1942 by metropolitan councils was £159,000 which was slightly higher than September but only about one-fifth of the October, 1941 level. The value of buildings for which Government contracts were accepted in October, 1942 was about the same in the metropolitan area as in September, but in the country, where the greater part of Government construction takes place, the value was only about one-third of the September figure.

VALUE OF PROPOSED BUILDINGS - N.S.W.

New Buildings, alterations and additions (except A.R.P.)

Period.	Private Building (Permits to Build).		Public Building (C/w. & State Govts.) +		T O T A L.		
	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. as far as recorded (a)	Metropolis	Remainder of State.	Metropolis	Other N.S.W. as far as recorded (a)	Total (a).
			<u>Thousands of £'s.</u>				
1938/39	15,333	5,953	(b)	(b)	-	-	-
1939/40	11,437	5,052	1,053	1,537	12,490	6,589	19,079
1940/41	12,006	4,624	1,477	2,501	13,483	7,125	20,608
1941/42	5,969	3,364	1,329	3,640	7,298	7,004	14,302
1941-Sept. Qr.	3,140	1,456	449	901	3,589	2,357	5,946
-Oct.	768	(b)	176	202	944	(b)	(b)
1942-June. Qr.	289	315	241	588	530	903	1,433
-Sept. Qr.	297	78	316	899	613	977	1,590
-Oct.	159	(b)	78	114	237	(b)	(b)

(a) Quarterly returns of private buildings are received from authorities covering approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the non-metropolitan population.

(b) Not available.

+ Contracts accepted.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION.

War-time conditions are placing a strain on communications - cable, wireless and telegraph. It has been necessary to ban telegrams between civilians over a short Xmas period.

↑ of greeting

The Commonwealth Telegraph Conference being held in Melbourne is presided over by the chairman of the Imperial Communications Advisory Committee (Britain).

The Postmaster-General has announced that an air-graph (photo record) service is to be instituted for limited use for correspondence between Australia and overseas countries. Plant difficulties have prevented the earlier adoption of the system.

Railway passenger traffic during September Quarter exceeded last year's by 8.4% and goods and livestock by 18%. The excess of revenue over working also was greater than last year.

During the quarter tram and omnibus passenger traffic increased by 4.6%, earnings 5.8% and working expenses 13.2% compared with 1941.

The number of motor vehicles on the registers in N.S.W. (to the nearest thousand) showed no change from September to October, 1942.

N.S.W. PUBLIC TRANSPORT.SEPTEMBER QUARTER.

Year	RAILWAYS - N.S.W.				TRAMS & BUSES - Sydney and Newcastle.		
	Passenger Journeys	Tonnage of Goods and Livestock.	Gross Revenue	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses (a)	Passenger Journeys (b)	Revenue	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses (c)
	Million	Million	£000	£000	Million	£000	£000
1939	43.8	4.3	5,070	1,541	90.4	1,060	136
1940	46.4	5.2(d)	6,057	2,402	90.6	1,104	191
1941	52.5	4.4	6,303	2,030	114.8	1,294	216
1942	56.9	5.1★	8,716	2,746	120.1	1,369	148

★ Partly estimated.

(a) Excl. interest sinking fund and exchange which amounted to £m.6.57 in 1941-42.

(b) Excluding Harbour Bridge section tickets.

(c) Excl. interest, s.f., exch. and current depreciation which amounted to £610,000 in 1941/42.

(d) Extra heavy traffic due to coal strike in June Quarter.

Permits to fit producer gas units, issued in N.S.W., total approximately 16,600 to date and the current rate of issue is 200 per week.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.

GENERAL. Seasonal conditions generally are good. One and a half times the normal average rainfall was recorded during November in sheep, wheat and coastal districts. Monsoonal activity in the past week produced heavy rain on the north-west plains and slopes which were among the few areas immediately in need of rain. Brief hot spells have been followed by cool changes and showers. The Government Meteorologist has predicted a sequence of rain-storms during the summer.

Some rust is present in wheat crops in the north-west and blowflies have been troublesome in this area. Grasshoppers and rabbits are reported to be increasing in some districts.

NEW SOUTH WALES - RAINFALL INDEX.

Weighted average ratio of actual to normal rainfall.
(Normal rainfall each month = 100)

Month	Sheep Districts	Wheat Districts	Dairying (Coastal) Districts.
1941 - Aug.	37	41	38
Sept.	56	47	30
Oct.	75	75	53
1942 - May	196	237	32
June	118	128	73
July	149	113	86
Aug.	72	105	31
Sept.	72	78	23
Oct.	127	97	332
Nov.	165	164	153

Food Supply. The Minister for Commerce has announced that one of the first tasks of the Director of Agriculture would be to conduct a nation-wide drive for increased vegetable production. The Director has suggested that householders should endeavour to become less dependent on commercial vegetable growers.

Vegetable dehydration is to be extended.

The Tinsplate Board has become the Canning and Tinsplate Board with the implied extension of its activities. A tomato canning programme for 1943 aggregating 70,000 tons is under consideration. An Australian-wide nutritional education programme costing up to \$15,000 has been approved by the Federal Cabinet.

Butter production in N.S.W. factories increased seasonally from September to October, 1942. October production, 7.5m. lbs., was almost the same as last year's. In the ten months Jan. - Oct. 1942 production was 23.96m. lbs. compared with 22.58m. lbs. in the period Jan. - Oct. 1941.

Potatoes are in plentiful supply and the price has fallen. A common retail price is 5 lbs. for 1/-. The price of carcass mutton for dehydration at the State Abattoirs is to continue at 2⁷/₈d. per lb. until Jan. 15, 1943. A scale of fixed prices for pigmeats has been announced and processors' and retailers' margins are to be controlled. Some reduction from current high prices will result but prices will still be well above the average prior to the recent steep rise.

Arrangements to relieve the egg shortage in New Zealand by exports from Australia have been made by the Chairman of the N.S.W. Egg Marketing Board. The large military orders will be supplied - mostly in the form of pulped and powdered eggs.

WHEAT.

The Government Statistician has estimated that the current N.S.W. crop will be 52 m. bushels. The area sown to wheat was 3,100,000 acres, or 15.4% less than the area licensed. The average yield of 16.8 bus. per acre as estimated is the best since 1939-40 when the yield was 17.5 bus. per acre and the crop was 76.6m. bushels.

The Australian harvest is estimated at 147m. bus. (preliminary).

WHEAT CROP, N.S.W.

Item	1938/39	1939/40	1940/41	1941/42	1942/43 (estimate)
Acreage Sown '000 acres	4,651	4,381	4,454	3,969	3,100
Yield of Wheat '000 bus.	59,898	76,552	23,933	48,500	52,000
Yield per acre bus.	12.9	17.5	5.4	12.2	16.8

A summary of emergency returns from wheatgrowers in N.S.W. reveals that the numbers engaged full-time on wheat farms in September 1942 were 21,000 males and 1,300 females. Part-time workers were 1,950 males and 2,050 females and 1,750 males and 80 females were employed casually. During the last twelve months 5,100 men from the farms entered the defence forces and 350 entered factories. Arrangements have been made for labour for the harvest.

WOOL.

The British Wool Control has announced a reduction of 6¹/₂% from present quotations for Australian and New Zealand wool for export to U.S.A. The reduction is reported to have resulted in increased orders for export from Australia to U.S.A. Fine merino wools may now be imported into U.S.A. at approximately one dollar per lb., clean scoured basis and duty paid.

Wool stocks in U.S.A. are reported to be 1,500m. lbs. Maximum annual consumption is estimated at 1,200m. lbs. and the domestic clip provides 400m. lbs. The Pacific shipping position has enabled greater shipments from Australia than were originally contemplated.

The Minister for Commerce announced that he hoped to call a conference of exporting Dominion woolgrowers to formulate a policy for wool marketing after the

war. The Minister favours wool price control after the war.

The establishment in country areas of N.S.W. and Queensland of six or more additional wool storage and appraisal centres is under discussion. One purpose is to relieve congestion at ports.

DRIED FRUITS.

The combined Food Board of Britain, U.S.A. and Canada has adopted a plan to control the distribution of all dried fruits obtainable throughout the world.

Australia's dried fruit crop promises to be very satisfactory and ample for Service and civilian requirements.